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SECRET WARS II
CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
TO BATTLE THE BEYONDER!
FEATURING THE POWER OF THE PUMA!
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SPIDER-MAN
"TO CHALLENGE THE BEYONDER!"
SOMEWHERE ON A SMALL INDIAN RESERVATION LOCATED FORTY-THREE MILES SOUTHWEST OF HARTSDALE, NEW MEXICO...
BEHOLD THE FACE OF YOUR ENEMY! THE MAD GOD WHO WOULD ENGULF THIS WORLD IN BLOOD AND FIRE!
BEHOLD HE-WHO-COMES-FROM-BEYOND!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING!
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO WRITER
RON FRENZ PENCILER
JOSEF RUBENSTEIN FINISHED ART
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
JIM OWSLEY EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

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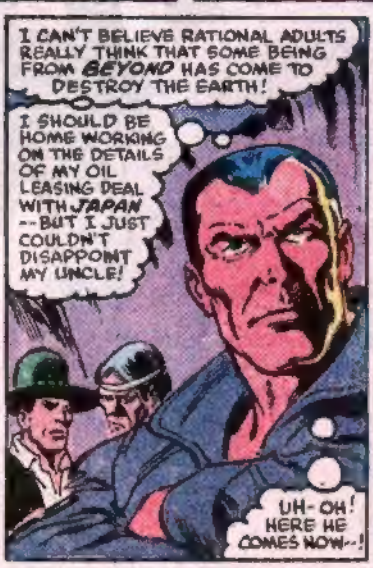
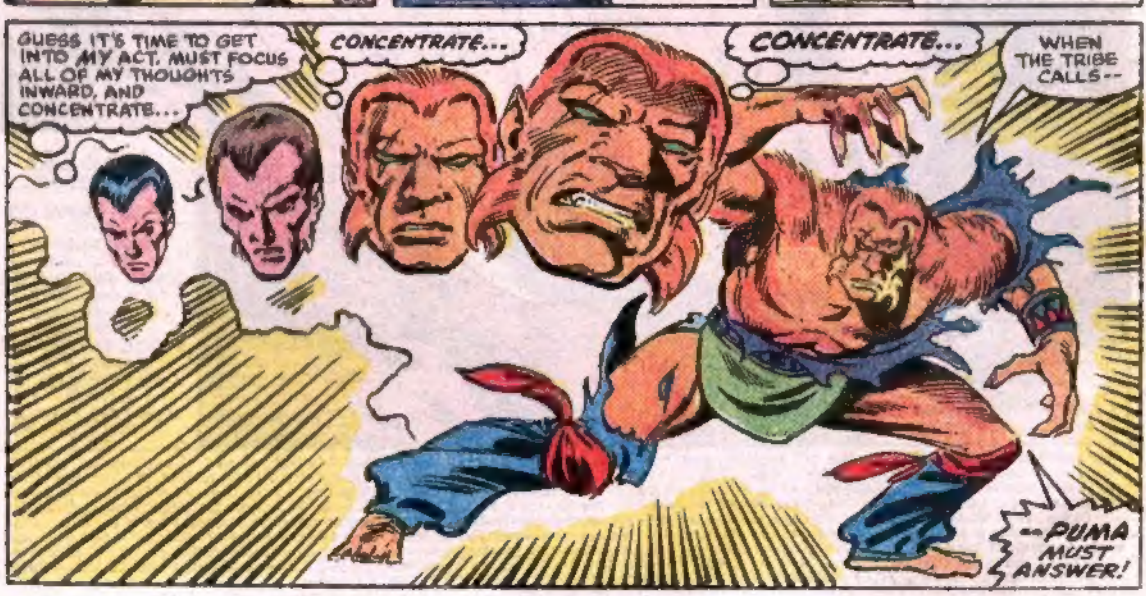
IT'S ALL SO INCREDIBLE! MY UNCLE, THE SHAMAN, IS USING HIS HERBAL POWDERS TO CONJURE GHOSTLY IMAGES IN THE AIR --
--WHILE THE REST OF THE TRIBE ACTS LIKE THE CAST OF SOME BAD, OLD GRADE B WESTERN!
"THESE ARE ALL PROFESSIONAL MEN -- DOCTORS, LAWYERS AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERS! WHERE'S THEIR PRIDE?!"

EVEN THE TRIBE ELDERS ARE GETTING INTO THE ACT!
AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF SOME STUPID ANCIENT PROPHECY!


I CAN'T BELIEVE RATIONAL ADULTS REALLY THINK THAT SOME BEING FROM BEYOND HAS COME TO DESTROY THE EARTH!
I SHOULD BE HOME WORKING ON THE DETAILS OF MY OIL LEASING DEAL WITH JAPAN -- BUT I JUST COULDN'T DISAPPOINT MY UNCLE!
UH-OH! HERE HE COMES NOW--!

THE GAUNTLET IS READY, SHAMAN!
THEN, THE TIME HAS COME TO CALL FORTH THE PROTECTOR OF THE THE TRIBE! THE GUARDIAN OF THE PEOPLE!
HEAR ME, THOMAS FIREHEART! YOU MUST NOW CAST ASIDE YOUR HUMAN GUISE!
I HEAR, O SHAMAN!


GUESS IT'S TIME TO GET INTO MY ACT. MUST FOCUS ALL OF MY THOUGHTS INWARD, AND CONCENTRATE...
CONCENTRATE...
CONCENTRATE...
WHEN THE TRIBE CALLS--
--PUMA MUST ANSWER!

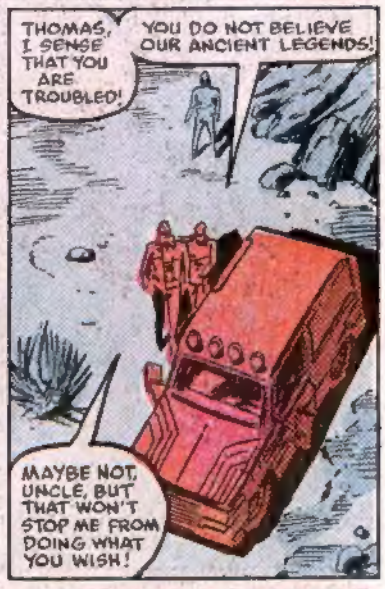
THE GAUNTLET AWAITS! YOU MUST AGAIN PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY OF THIS TRIBE!
I REALLY HATE THESE RITUALISTIC BATTLES!
THEY'RE A WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT--AND THEY'RE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!
I CAN CRUSH A MOUNTAIN LION'S SKULL WITH A SINGLE BLOW!
IT TAKES ALL MY SKILL AND CONCENTRATION TO KEEP MY POWER IN CHECK!
I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE TRIBE, NOT SLAUGHTER IT!
I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF I ACCIDENTALLY INJURED ONE OF THESE MEN!
SUCH SPEED! SUCH AGILITY! SHAMAN, YOUR NEPHEW IS TRULY THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF THEM ALL!
AND YET, IS EVEN THE POWER OF PUMA ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE HE-WHO-COMES-FROM-BEYOND?
I DO NOT KNOW, MY BROTHERS...

ENOUGH! THE TRIBE SMILES UPON THIS WARRIOR!
MAY OUR ANCIENT GODS GRANT HIM THE STRENGTH HE WILL NEED IN THE PERILOUS DAYS AHEAD!

PUMA, THE ELDERS OF YOUR TRIBE OFFER YOU THIS SMALL TOKEN--A NEW COSTUME!
WE PRAY THAT IT SHIELDS YOU IN BATTLE!
I SHALL WEAR IT WITH PRIDE, SHAMAN!

THE CEREMONY IS NOW OVER!
LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!
YAHOO--!

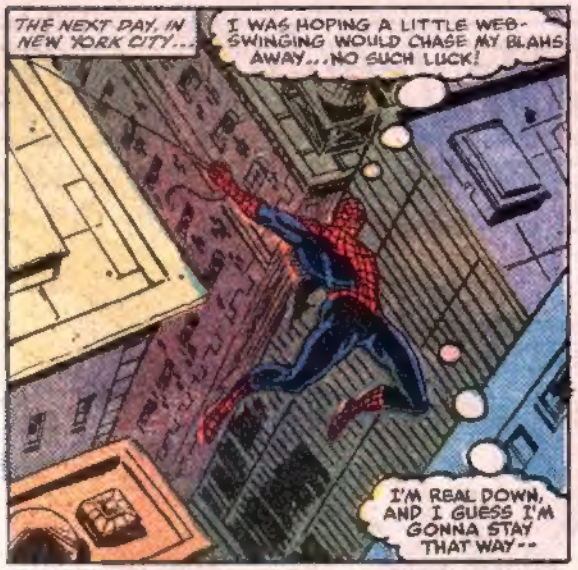
MINUTES LATER...
I'M GLAD I REMEMBERED TO BRING A SECOND SET OF CIVILIAN CLOTHES TO WEAR AFTER THE CEREMONY!
YOU GIVE GREAT GAUNTLET, THOMAS!
THANKS, PHIL!
JERK!


THOMAS, I SENSE THAT YOU ARE TROUBLED!
YOU DO NOT BELIEVE OUR ANCIENT LEGENDS!
MAYBE NOT, UNCLE, BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM DOING WHAT YOU WISH!

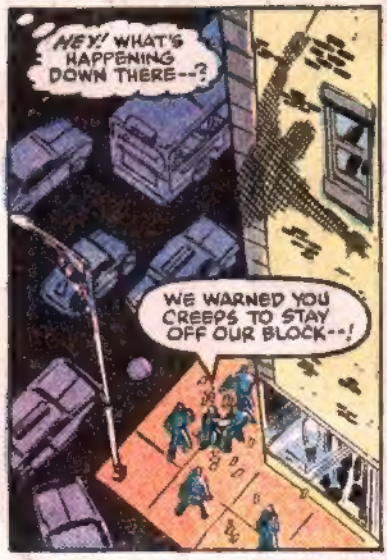
THEN, YOU MUST FIND THIS ONE FROM BEYOND, AND KILL HIM!
SHOW HIM NO MERCY! HE MAY APPEAR HUMAN, BUT HIS POWER SURPASSES THE STARS THEMSELVES!
YOU WILL NEED HELP...

I SUGGEST YOU ENLIST THE AID OF THAT MAN-SPIDER WHOSE IMAGE I RECENTLY SAW IN YOUR OFFICE!*
HE MEANS SPIDER-MAN!
I'LL TRY, UNCLE! SEE YOU SOON--!
*SEE LAST ISSUE -- OWZ.

FAREWELL, THOMAS!
YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE--BUT I FEAR THAT I AM SENDING YOU TO YOUR DEATH!


THE NEXT DAY, IN NEW YORK CITY...
I WAS HOPING A LITTLE WEB-SWINGING WOULD CHASE MY BLAHS AWAY...NO SUCH LUCK!
I'M REAL DOWN, AND I GUESS I'M GONNA STAY THAT WAY--

--UNTIL I LEARN TO COPE WITH THE FACT THAT JEAN DEWOLF IS REALLY DEAD! *
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE BEST OF FRIENDS, BUT I'M GOING TO MISS THAT LADY!
SHE WAS REALLY SOMETHING SPECIAL!
* SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #107-110 FOR DETAILS--OWZ.

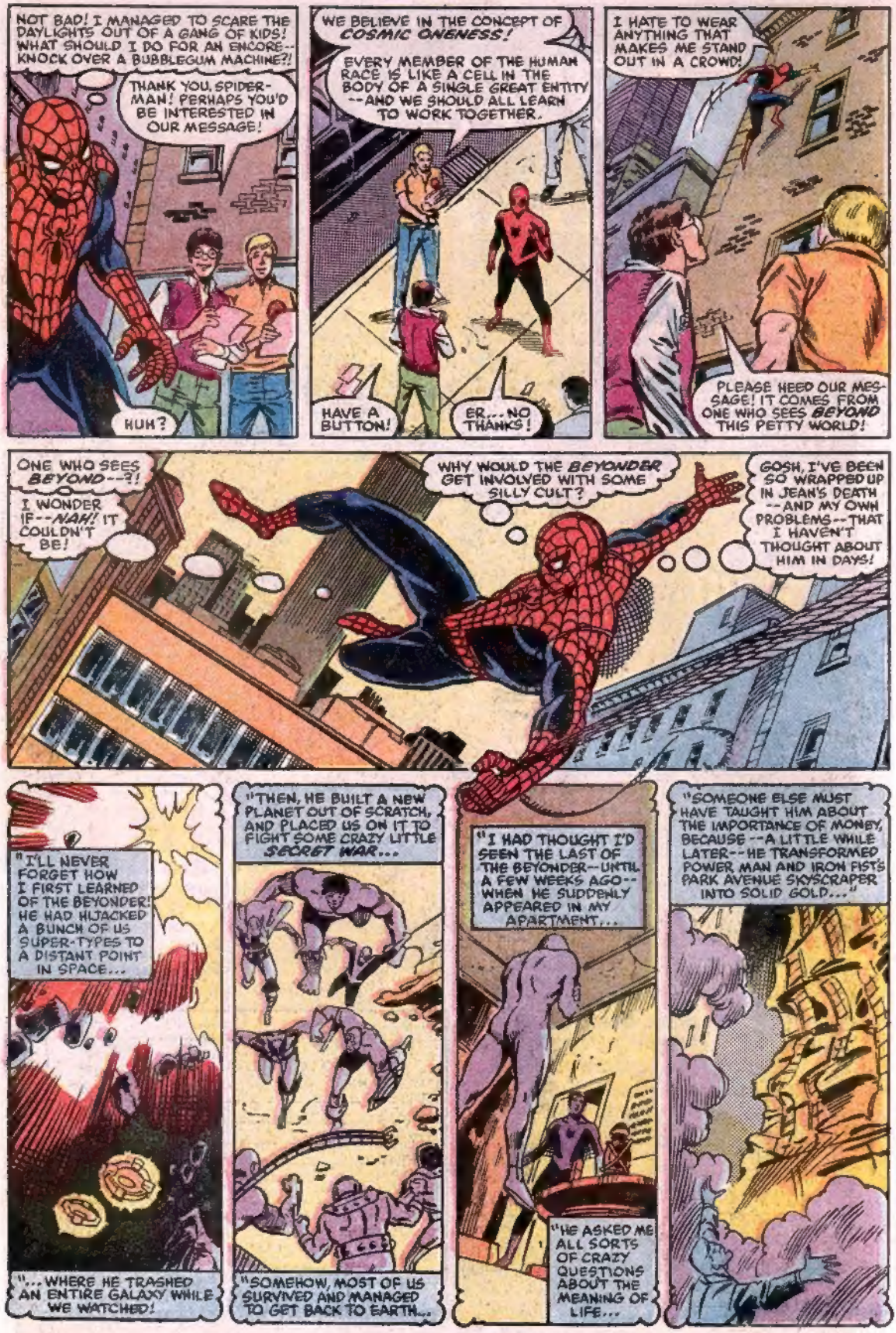

HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE--?
WE WARNED YOU CREEPS TO STAY OFF OUR BLOCK--!

B-BUT WE JUST WANTED TO BRING YOU THE MESSAGE OF COSMIC ONENESS!
WELL, I'VE GOT A MESSAGE FOR YOU--!
GET LOST!

NOW, NOW, THAT'S NO WAY TO MAKE FRIENDS!
THWIPP
WHAT THE--?!
OH, NO!

GIVE ME THAT! IF YOU CAN'T LEARN TO PLAY NICELY WITH YOUR TOYS, I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THEM AWAY!
OMIGOSH! IT'S...IT'S...
GO AHEAD, AND SAY MY NAME! IT'S MUSIC TO MY EARS!

YOU WON'T DO IT, HUH? WELL, THEN, I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET ROUGH...
BOOGA! BOOGA!
YEOW!

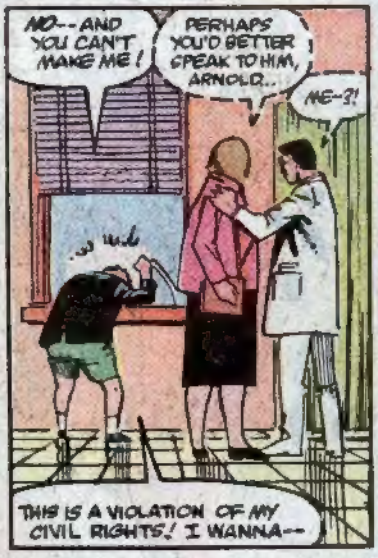

NOT BAD! I MANAGED TO SCARE THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF A GANG OF KIDS! WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR AN ENCORE--KNOCK OVER A BUBBLEGUM MACHINE?!
THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN! PERHAPS YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN OUR MESSAGE!
HUH?
WE BELIEVE IN THE CONCEPT OF COSMIC ONENESS!
EVERY MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE IS LIKE A CELL IN THE BODY OF A SINGLE GREAT ENTITY --AND WE SHOULD ALL LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER.
HAVE A BUTTON!
ER...NO THANKS!
I HATE TO WEAR ANYTHING THAT MAKES ME STAND OUT IN A CROWD!
PLEASE HEED OUR MESSAGE! IT COMES FROM ONE WHO SEES BEYOND THIS PETTY WORLD!
ONE WHO SEES BEYOND--?!
I WONDER IF--NAH! IT COULDN'T BE!
WHY WOULD THE BEYONDER GET INVOLVED WITH SOME SILLY CULT?
GOSH, I'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED UP IN JEAN'S DEATH --AND MY OWN PROBLEMS--THAT I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT HIM IN DAYS!
"I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW I FIRST LEARNED OF THE BEYONDER! HE HAD HIJACKED A BUNCH OF US SUPER-TYPES TO A DISTANT POINT IN SPACE...
"...WHERE HE TRASHED AN ENTIRE GALAXY WHILE WE WATCHED!
"THEN, HE BUILT A NEW PLANET OUT OF SCRATCH, AND PLACED US ON IT TO FIGHT SOME CRAZY LITTLE SECRET WAR...
"SOMEHOW, MOST OF US SURVIVED AND MANAGED TO GET BACK TO EARTH...
"I HAD THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF THE BEYONDER--UNTIL A FEW WEEKS AGO--WHEN HE SUDDENLY APPEARED IN MY APARTMENT...
"HE ASKED ME ALL SORTS OF CRAZY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MEANING OF LIFE...
"SOMEONE ELSE MUST HAVE TAUGHT HIM ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MONEY, BECAUSE--A LITTLE WHILE LATER--HE TRANSFORMED POWER MAN AND IRON FIST'S PARK AVENUE SKYSCRAPER INTO SOLID GOLD..."

... BUT I'M NOT COMPLAINING! I MANAGED TO PICK UP ONE HECK OF A SOUVENIR THANKS TO HIM*--
-- A SOLID GOLD NOTEBOOK WHICH COULD SOLVE ALL OF MY MONEY WORRIES!
*SEE SECRET WARS II #2 AND WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #6 -- OWZ!

IT'S GOTTA BE WORTH CLOSE TO FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AT TODAY'S PRICES!
I JUST WISH I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE SUCH A HEEL FOR TAKING IT!

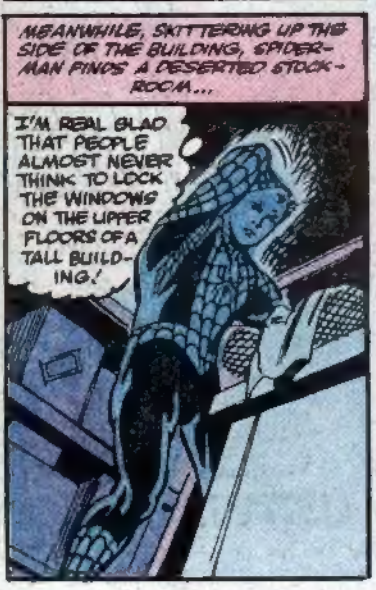
MAN, ALL OF THIS HEAVY THINKING IS WEARING ME OUT!
I NEED A BREAK!
MAYBE I SHOULD SWING OVER TO THE HOSPITAL, AND SEE HOW NATHAN LUBENSKY'S DOING!

MINUTES LATER, AT QUEENS COUNTY HOSPITAL...
I DON'T WANNA STAY IN NO HOSPITAL!
TAKE ME HOME--NOW!
B-BUT CLIFTON, THE DOCTOR SAYS IT'S NECESSARY!
IT'S ONLY FOR ONE NIGHT! PLEASE DO IT FOR MOMMY--!


NO--AND YOU CAN'T MAKE ME!
PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER SPEAK TO HIM, ARNOLD...
ME--?!
THIS IS A VIOLATION OF MY CIVIL RIGHTS! I WANNA--

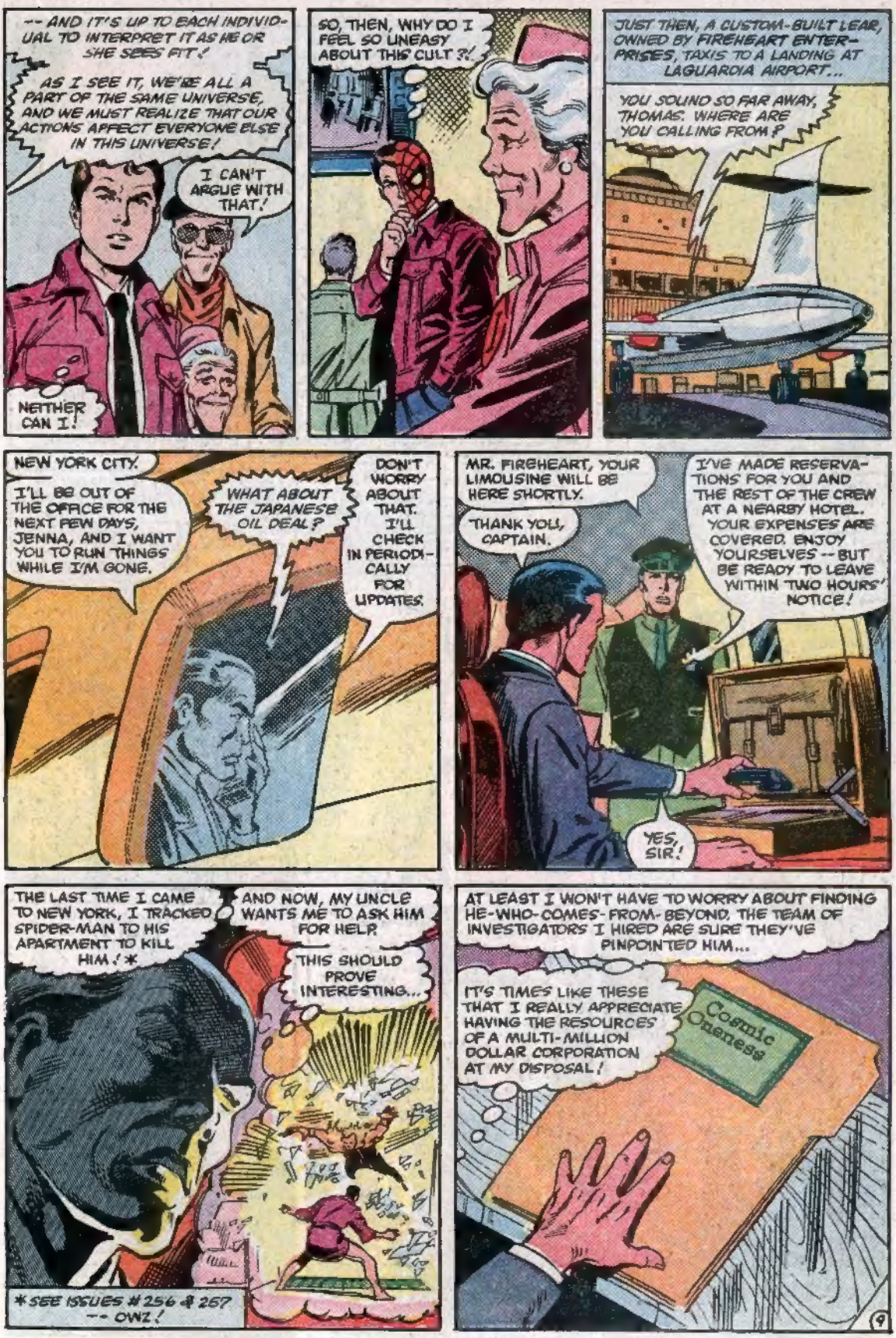
--LAWYER!!
WOW! IS HE STAYING HERE?!

I CHANGED MY MIND, MOMMY! I WANNA STAY HERE!
CAN I, PLEASE? CAN I?!


MEANWHILE, SKITTERING UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING, SPIDER-MAN FINDS A DESERTED STOCK-ROOM...
I'M REAL GLAD THAT PEOPLE ALMOST NEVER THINK TO LOCK THE WINDOWS ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF A TALL BUILDING!

UH-OH! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS WARNING ME OF DANGER! SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO--

"-- OPEN THAT DOOR!"
HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW HUNK IN ER?
THE ONE WITH THE DREAMY EYES?
YOU NOTICED--!
¿PHEW!¿ THAT WAS CLOSE! I GOTTA LEARN TO BE MORE CAREFUL!
GUESS I SHOULD HAVE WEDGED THAT DOOR CLOSED WITH A STRAND OF WEBBING!
MOMENTS LATER...
HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL MY SPIDER-SENSE STOPS BUZZING--
-- SO THAT I KNOW WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR!
AH, PERFECT!
LET'S SEE, I DO BELIEVE NATHAN'S ROOM IS IN THIS DIRECTION...
LOOKS LIKE MOST OF THE GANG FROM MY AUNT MAY'S BOARDING HOUSE IS ALREADY HERE!
HOW'S THE PATIENT, MR. CHEKOV?
AS GROUCHY AS EVER!
¡HARUMPH! DIDN'T ANYONE THINK TO BRING A DECK OF CARDS?
TURN THE CHANNEL, VICTOR.
HUSH UP, HARRIET!
WHAT THE--?!
HI, AUNT MAY! WHERE'D YOU GET THE NEW BUTTON?
A VERY NICE YOUNG MAN GAVE IT TO ME! HE WAS SO POLITE! WOULDN'T EVEN ACCEPT A DONATION FOR IT!
THIS ISN'T MY SOAP OPERA!
...BELINDA BARKLEY ON THE STREET WITH BARRY FOXXE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW CULT OF COSMIC ONENESS!
SHH! IT LOOKS INTERESTING!
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T REFER TO US AS A CULT, MS. BARKLEY! THAT WORD HAS RELIGIOUS CONNOTATIONS!
OUR MESSAGE IS FOR EVERYONE! IT TRANSCENDS ALL RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES--


-- AND IT'S UP TO EACH INDIVIDUAL TO INTERPRET IT AS HE OR SHE SEES FIT!
AS I SEE IT, WE'RE ALL A PART OF THE SAME UNIVERSE, AND WE MUST REALIZE THAT OUR ACTIONS AFFECT EVERYONE ELSE IN THIS UNIVERSE!
I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT!
NEITHER CAN I!
SO, THEN, WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY ABOUT THIS CULT?!
JUST THEN, A CUSTOM-BUILT LEAR, OWNED BY FIREHEART ENTERPRISES, TAXIS TO A LANDING AT LAGUARDIA AIRPORT...
YOU SOUND SO FAR AWAY, THOMAS. WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM?
NEW YORK CITY.
I'LL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, JENNA, AND I WANT YOU TO RUN THINGS WHILE I'M GONE.
WHAT ABOUT THE JAPANESE OIL DEAL?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. I'LL CHECK IN PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES.
MR. FIREHEART, YOUR LIMOUSINE WILL BE HERE SHORTLY.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN.
I'VE MADE RESERVATIONS FOR YOU AND THE REST OF THE CREW AT A NEARBY HOTEL. YOUR EXPENSES ARE COVERED. ENJOY YOURSELVES -- BUT BE READY TO LEAVE WITHIN TWO HOURS' NOTICE!
YES, SIR!
THE LAST TIME I CAME TO NEW YORK, I TRACKED SPIDER-MAN TO HIS APARTMENT TO KILL HIM!*
AND NOW, MY UNCLE WANTS ME TO ASK HIM FOR HELP.
THIS SHOULD PROVE INTERESTING...
*SEE ISSUES #256 & 257 -- OWZ!
AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FINDING HE-WHO-COMES-FROM-BEYOND. THE TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS I HIRED ARE SURE THEY'VE PINPOINTED HIM...
IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE THAT I REALLY APPRECIATE HAVING THE RESOURCES OF A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CORPORATION AT MY DISPOSAL!
Cosmic Oneness
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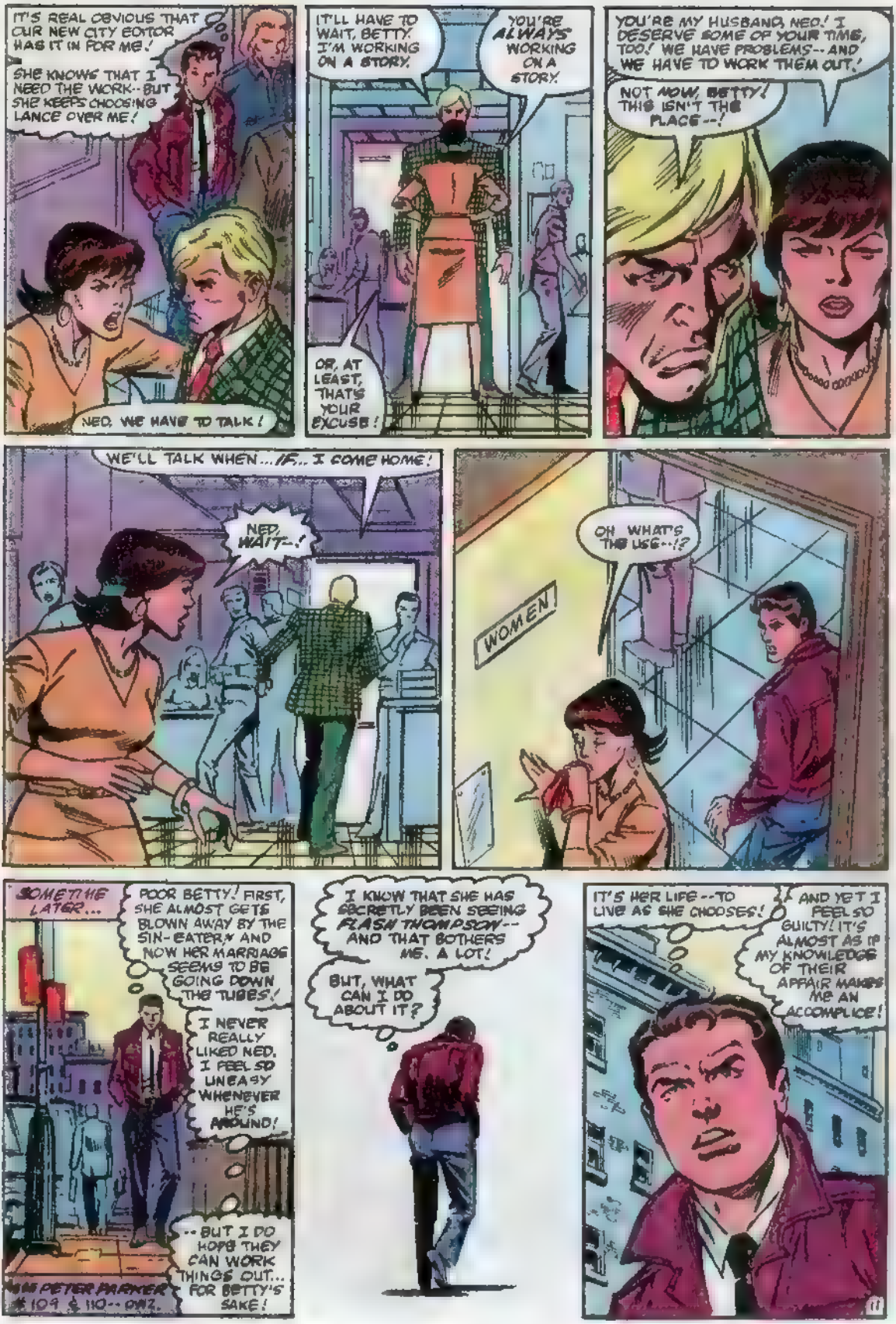
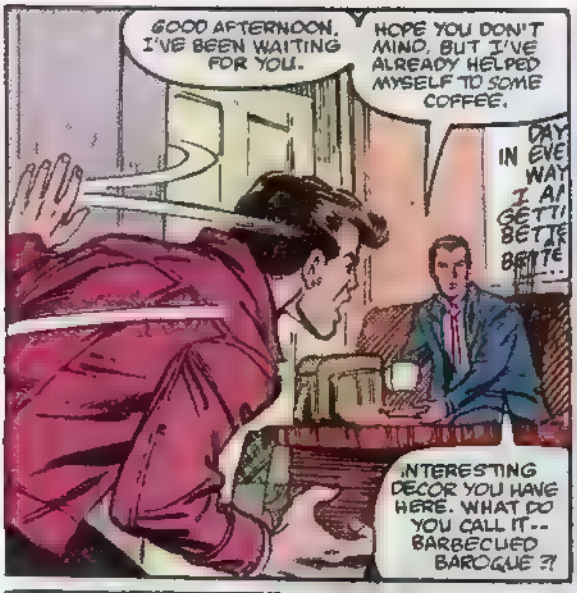
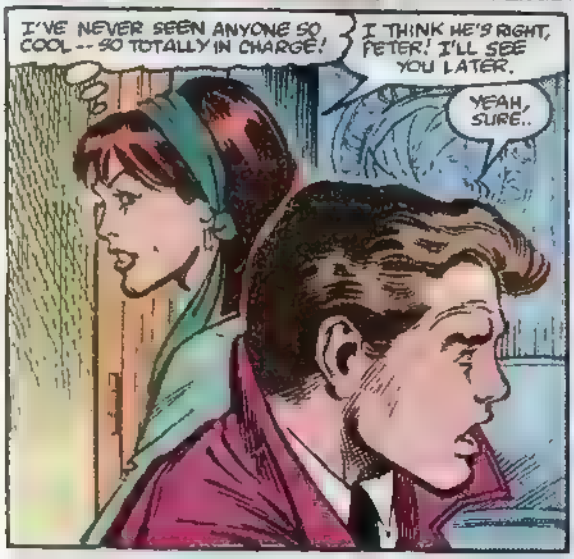
ELSEWHERE .
I WANT FACTS-- NOT RUMORS AND INNUENDOS! WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?!
THE CULT OF COSMIC ONENESS
WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW. IT'S LIKE THEY SPRANG UP OVER-NIGHT!
HOW DO THEY SUPPORT THEMSELVES? THEY DON'T SOLICIT DONATIONS--
-- AND YET, THEY'VE GOTTA BE HANDING OUT A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF PAMPHLETS AND BUTTONS EACH DAY!
MAYBE SOME PHILAN-TROPIST IS BACKING THEM.
I'M DYING FOR A SMOKE, BUT CUSHING WILL FREAK IF I LIGHT ONE!
TAP TAP TAP
MAYBE GOD HIMSELF IS SUPPORTING THEM!
NOT FUNNY, URICH!
BESIDES, THEY'RE NOT A RELIGION IN ANY CONVEN-TIONAL SENSE OF THE WORD!
LEEDS!' I WANT YOU TO DIG UP EVERYTHING YOU CAN ON THEM!
FIND OUT WHAT THEY REALLY WANT! IT HAS TO BE MORE THAN SPREADING A SIMPLE MESSAGE.
AND, OF COURSE, WE'LL NEED SOME PICTURES ..
BANNON-- YOU WORK WITH LEEDS!
DARN! I WAS HOPING SHE WOULDN'T PICK ME!
THIS ASSIGNMENT IS A WASTE OF MY ARTISTIC TALENTS! THERE'S NOTHING VISUAL ABOUT THESE JERKS-- EXCEPT FOR THEIR STUPID BUTTONS!
QUIT GRIPING, LANCE! AT LEAST YOU HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT!

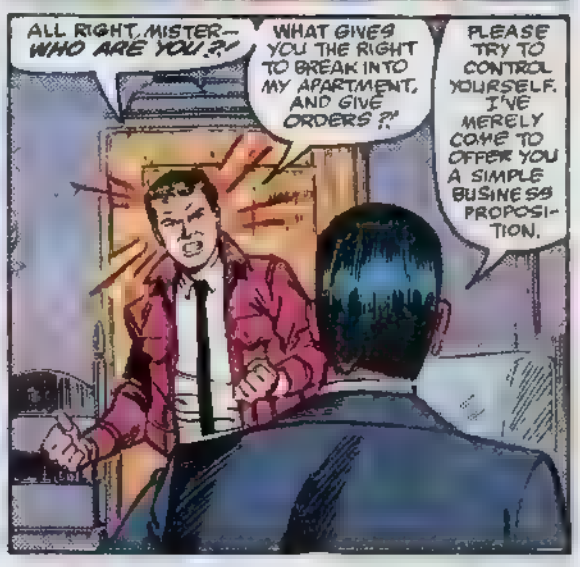

IT'S REAL OBVIOUS THAT OUR NEW CITY EDITOR HAS IT IN FOR ME!
SHE KNOWS THAT I NEED THE WORK--BUT SHE KEEPS CHOOSING LANCE OVER ME!
NED, WE HAVE TO TALK!
IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, BETTY. I'M WORKING ON A STORY.
YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING ON A STORY.
OR, AT LEAST, THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE!
YOU'RE MY HUSBAND, NED! I DESERVE SOME OF YOUR TIME, TOO! WE HAVE PROBLEMS--AND WE HAVE TO WORK THEM OUT!
NOT NOW, BETTY! THIS ISN'T THE PLACE--!
WE'LL TALK WHEN...IF...I COME HOME!
NED, WAIT--!
OH WHAT'S THE USE--!?
WOMEN
SOMETIME LATER...
POOR BETTY! FIRST, SHE ALMOST GETS BLOWN AWAY BY THE SIN-EATER, AND NOW HER MARRIAGE SEEMS TO BE GOING DOWN THE TUBES!
I NEVER REALLY LIKED NED. I FEEL SO UNEASY WHENEVER HE'S AROUND!
--BUT I DO HOPE THEY CAN WORK THINGS OUT... FOR BETTY'S SAKE!
SPIDER-MAN PETER PARKER #109 & 110--DWZ.
I KNOW THAT SHE HAS SECRETLY BEEN SEEING FLASH THOMPSON--AND THAT BOTHERS ME. A LOT!
BUT, WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?
IT'S HER LIFE--TO LIVE AS SHE CHOOSES!
AND YET I FEEL SO GUILTY! IT'S ALMOST AS IF MY KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR AFFAIR MAKES ME AN ACCOMPLICE!

SHORTLY..
DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME? CAN THAT POSSIBLY BE THE EVER-DELIGHTFUL EVER-RAVISHING MARY JANE WATSON, WHO'S SITTING ON MY STOOP?!
CAN THE COMPLIMENTS, OSWALD! YOU'RE LATE!
LATE?!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT OUR DATE!
DATE?!
MY, MY, I'LL BET YOU SPEND HOURS PRACTICING THOSE SNAPPY ONE-WORD COMEBACKS!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT I PROMISED TO HELP YOU PAINT YOUR APARTMENT TODAY? WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK AHEAD OF US, IF WE'RE GOING TO GET THE PLACE BACK IN SHAPE AFTER YOUR RECENT FIRE! *
* SEE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN # 11/12 -- OWZ.
I GUESS WE'D BETTER START CLEANING THE PLACE UP!
HARRUMPH! IT'S ABOUT TIME, PARKER! I INTEND TO DEDUCT THE COST OF REPAIRS FROM THAT THOUSAND DOLLAR CHECK YOU GAVE ME LAST WEEK! *
* SEE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #13 -- OWZ.
AND THAT MEANS YOUR RENT IS LATE -- AGAIN!
YOUR LANDLADY IS REAL CHARMING.
OH, MRS. MUGGINS, ISN'T SO BAD. YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO.
HEY! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING --!
PETER, YOU SEEM TENSE ALL OF A SUDDEN. IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I... I'M NOT SURE!
IT'S ONLY A MILD BUZZ! BUT WHAT'S CAUSING IT?!
12


GOOD AFTERNOON. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I'VE ALREADY HELPED MYSELF TO SOME COFFEE.
DAY IN EVE WAY I AI GETTI BETTE BRITE...
INTERESTING DECOR YOU HAVE HERE. WHAT DO YOU CALL IT-- BARBECUED BAROQUE ?!

I AM AFRAID THAT WHAT I HAVE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IS QUITE PRIVATE.
THE YOUNG LADY WILL HAVE TO GO.
WHAT--?!


I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO COOL -- SO TOTALLY IN CHARGE!
I THINK HE'S RIGHT, PETER! I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
YEAH, SURE..


ALL RIGHT, MISTER-- WHO ARE YOU ?!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO BREAK INTO MY APARTMENT, AND GIVE ORDERS ?!
PLEASE TRY TO CONTROL YOURSELF. I'VE MERELY COME TO OFFER YOU A SIMPLE BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

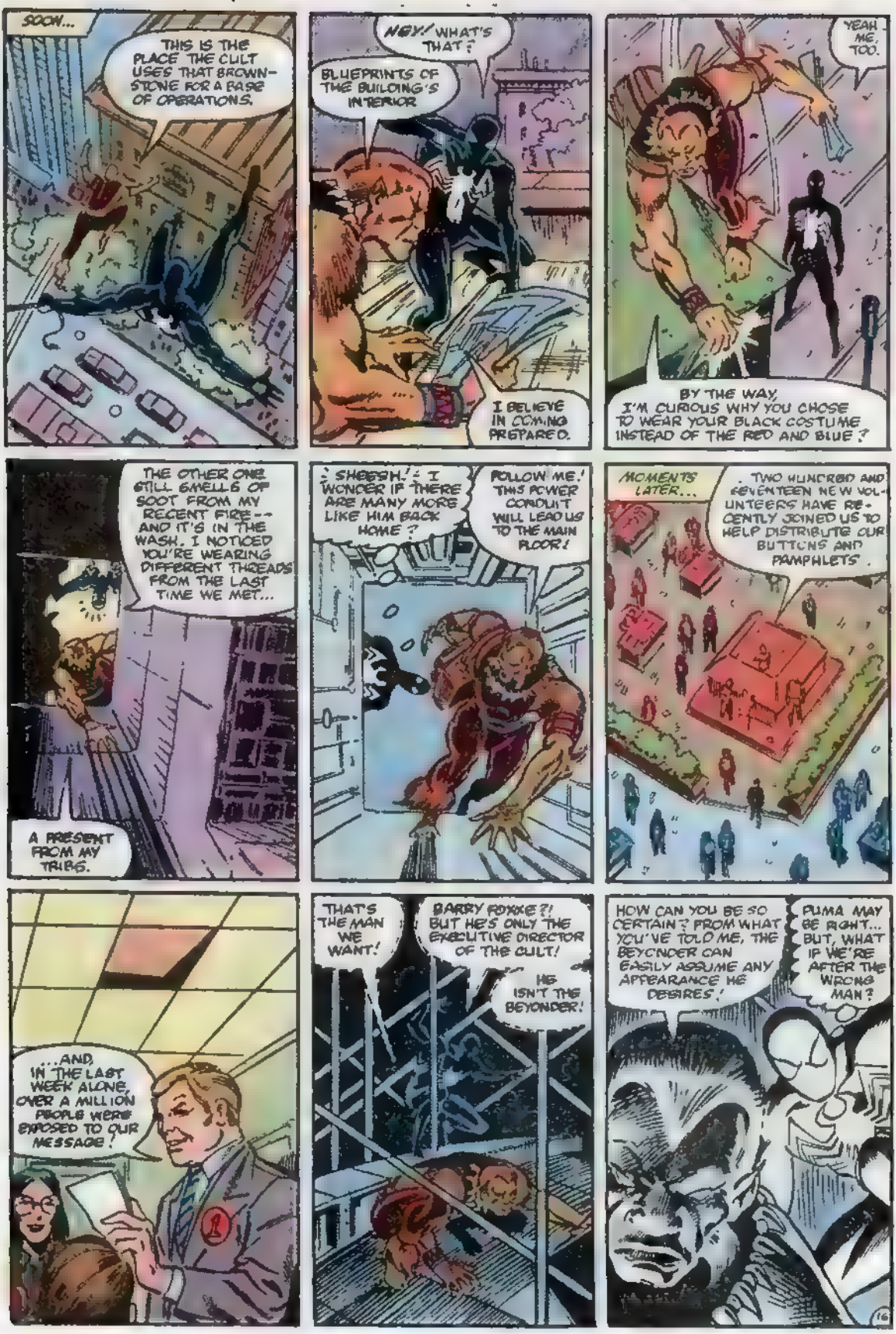
BY THE WAY, I DISCOVERED THIS ON TOP OF YOUR TELEVISION SET. BY MY RECKONING, IT'S WORTH ABOUT THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY DOLLARS.
IT BELONGS IN A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX.
WHO ARE YOU ?!

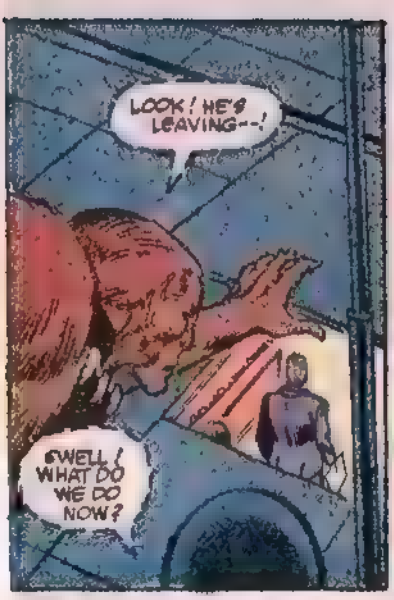
WE'VE MET BEFORE... UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
I'M SURE YOU RECALL THE NAME OF... PUMA!

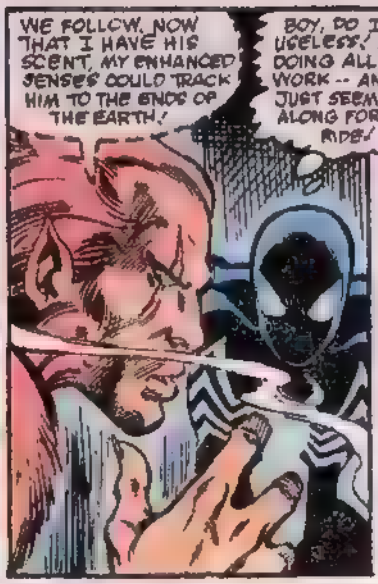
DON'T YOU, SPIDER-MAN ?

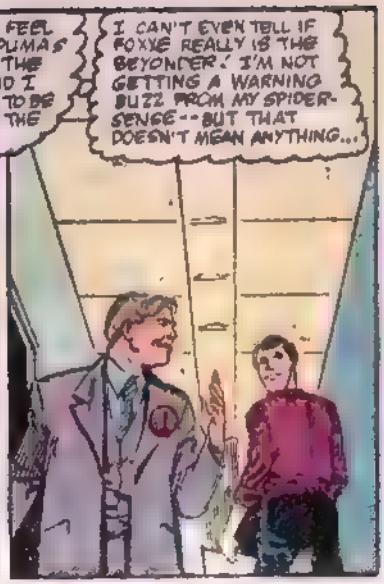
MEANWHILE...
I DON'T GET IT, LEEDS? WHY ARE WE HANGING AROUND HERE?
RELAX, SANNON.
I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE..
DAILY BUGLE
"... SOMEONE SPECIAL!"
WHAT'S THE RUSH, SWEET THING? GOT A DATE?
FLASH! I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT. I REALLY NEEDED TO SEE YOU TODAY.
Y BUGLE
I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
?!
COME ON!
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!
AND, AT THAT MOMENT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING. I'M CALMLY DISCUSSING THE IMMINENT DESTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSE WITH A GUY WHO ONCE TRIED TO ACE ME!
LET'S SAY I AM SPIDER-MAN, YOU'RE TAKING AN AWFUL CHANCE SHOWING ME YOUR REAL FACE.
THERE ARE BILLIONS OF FACES IN THIS WORLD, THE ODDS OF YOUR RECOGNIZING MINE ARE QUITE SLIM.
I CAN LOCATE PEOPLE BY THEIR INDIVIDUAL SCENTS. YOU CAN'T.
I MAY KNOW YOUR FACE, SPIDER-MAN, BUT NOT YOUR REAL NAME.
YEAH, WELL... SO YOU'RE HERE TO KILL THE BEYONDER?
YES, IF SUCH A BEING TRULY EXISTS.

IF THE LEGENDS OF MY PEOPLE ARE TO BE BELIEVED, HE IS DESTINED TO TURN AGAINST HUMANITY LIKE A MAD DOG.
WE MUST STOP HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
SPIDER-MAN I FULLY INTEND TO COMPENSATE YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
WILL A RETAINER OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS BE SUFFICIENT?
DON'T BURMA
WHOA! I DON'T HIRE OUT FOR MURDER AT ANY PRICE!
AND YET, WHAT IF HE'S RIGHT ABOUT THE BEYONDER?!
LISTEN, I MAY NOT LIKE YOU, BUT I STILL CAN'T LET YOU FACE THE BEYONDER ALONE! IT'S SUICIDE!
YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING DILEMMA.
I'M WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH YOU FOR NOW... BUT I'M NOT MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS... UNTIL I'VE ASSESSED THE SITUATION FOR MYSELF.
FAIR ENOUGH!
WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS I'VE CHANGED
SURE. YOU CAN USE THIS ROOM
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS GUY! HE CARRIES HIS CIVVIES AROUND IN A GUCCI SHOULDER BAG. TALK ABOUT OSTENTATIOUS!
ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION I'VE ACQUIRED, THIS BEYONDER PERSON IS PROBABLY A FORMER GANGSTER KNOWN IN THE STREET AS FRANK NO LAST NAME.
NO ONE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT HIM OR WHERE HE CAME FROM. HE WAS CONNECTED WITH THE VINNIE CORBO MOB FOR AWHILE. HAD A THING FOR GADGETS AND WAS INVOLVED IN DRUGS, PROSTITUTION AND GAMBLING. *
WHEW! THAT'S QUITE A REACH TO RELIGION. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'S TIED UP WITH THESE COSMIC OMENESS PEOPLE?
HE WAS SPOTTED WHEN THE GROUP WAS FIRST SETTING UP.
* CHECK OUT THE SECRET WARS II LIMITED SERIES FOR THE FULL STORY... ONE.
15


SOON...
THIS IS THE PLACE THE CULT USES THAT BROWNSTONE FOR A BASE OF OPERATIONS.
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
BLUEPRINTS OF THE BUILDING'S INTERIOR
I BELIEVE IN COMING PREPARED.
YEAH, ME, TOO.
BY THE WAY, I'M CURIOUS WHY YOU CHOSE TO WEAR YOUR BLACK COSTUME INSTEAD OF THE RED AND BLUE?
THE OTHER ONE STILL SMELLS OF SOOT FROM MY RECENT FIRE-- AND IT'S IN THE WASH. I NOTICED YOU'RE WEARING DIFFERENT THREADS FROM THE LAST TIME WE MET...
A PRESENT FROM MY TRIBE.
SHEESH! I WONDER IF THERE ARE MANY MORE LIKE HIM BACK HOME?
FOLLOW ME! THIS POWER CONDUIT WILL LEAD US TO THE MAIN FLOOR!
MOMENTS LATER...
...TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN NEW VOLUNTEERS HAVE RECENTLY JOINED US TO HELP DISTRIBUTE OUR BUTTONS AND PAMPHLETS.
...AND, IN THE LAST WEEK ALONE, OVER A MILLION PEOPLE WERE EXPOSED TO OUR MESSAGE!
THAT'S THE MAN WE WANT!
BARRY ROXXE?! BUT HE'S ONLY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CULT!
HE ISN'T THE BEYONDER!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CERTAIN? FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, THE BEYONDER CAN EASILY ASSUME ANY APPEARANCE HE DESIRES.
PUMA MAY BE RIGHT... BUT, WHAT IF WE'RE AFTER THE WRONG MAN?
16


LOOK! HE'S LEAVING--!
SWELL! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?


WE FOLLOW, NOW THAT I HAVE HIS SCENT, MY ENHANCED SENSES COULD TRACK HIM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!
BOY, DO I FEEL USELESS! PUMA'S DOING ALL THE WORK -- AND I JUST SEEM TO BE ALONG FOR THE RIDE!


I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF FOXXE REALLY IS THE BEYONDER! I'M NOT GETTING A WARNING BUZZ FROM MY SPIDER-SENSE -- BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING...

FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, I KNOW THAT THE BEYONDER CAN AVOID DETECTION WHEREVER HE PLEASES...
HI, MR. FOXXE! I HAVE THAT REPORT YOU REQUESTED
TERRIFIC, LYNN.

LET ME LOOK IT OVER, AND GET BACK TO YOU LATER THIS AFTERNOON.
THAT'LL BE FINE

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? PUMA SAYS THE BEYONDER'S A MENACE, BUT, HOW CAN I TRUST A MAN WHO ONCE TRIED TO KILL ME?
AND YET, DO I CARE NOT TRUST HIM?
HOLD UP! ACCORDING TO MY SENSES..

"... FOXXE IS ABOUT TO ENTER AN EMPTY ROOM."

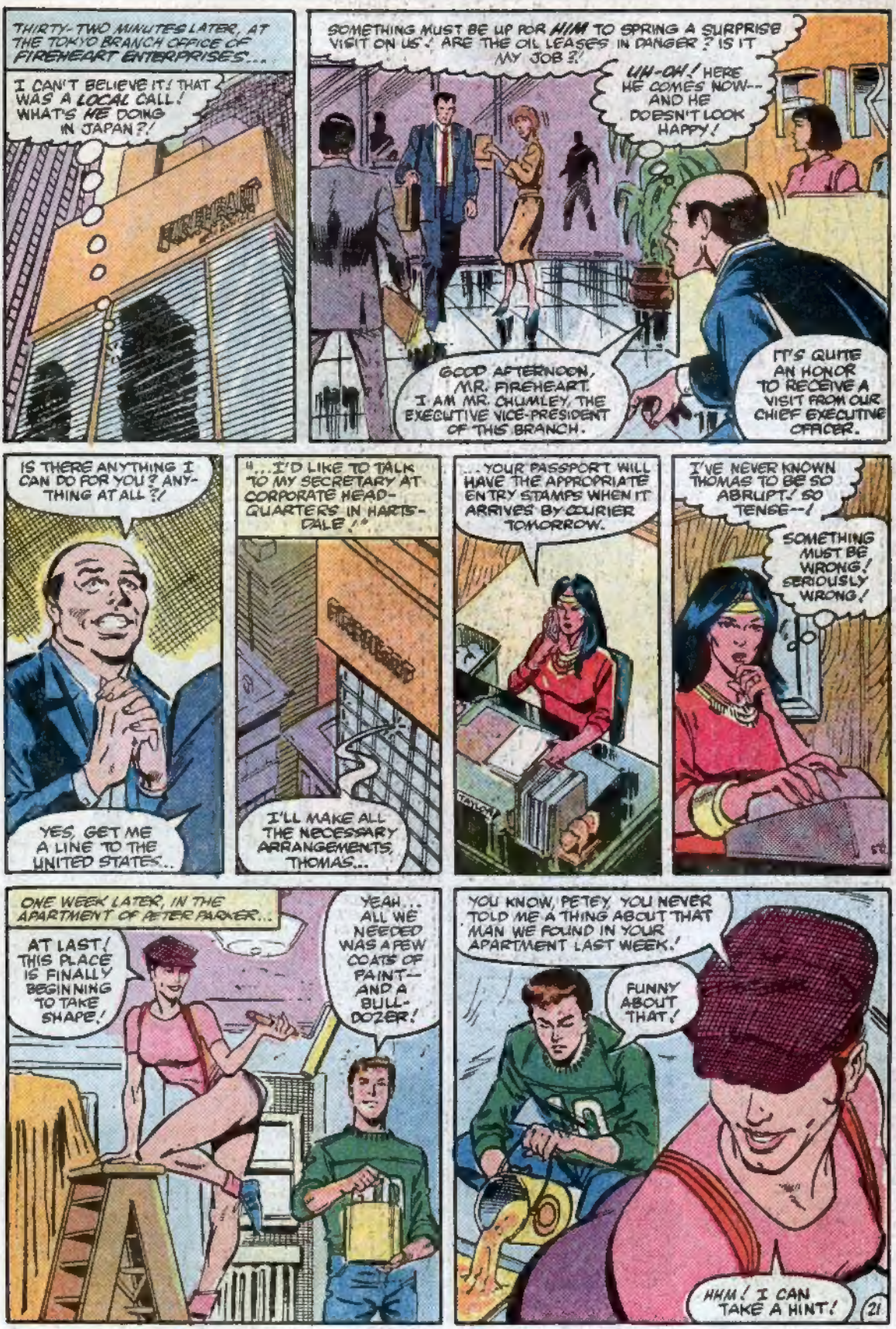
AT LAST! HE'S ALONE!
THIS IS ALL THE OPPORTUNITY I NEED!

HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
TO TALK WITH FOXXE.
I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT THAT IDEA.
REALLY?

TOO BAD!
HOW DO I GET INVOLVED IN THESE THINGS? I CAN'T LET THAT MANIAC MURDER ANYONE NOT EVEN THE BEYONDER!
AND YET, BY STOPPING PUMA AM I CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RACE?
A SINGLE STRAND OF WEBBING WILL STOP PUMA--
"--IF I DARE FIRE IT!"
MY UNCLE TOLD ME THAT MY ENEMY WOULD SURROUND HIMSELF WITH A HORDE OF FOLLOWERS.
FOXXE RULES THIS CULT
HE MUST BE THE ONE FROM BEYOND!
FOR WEEKS, I'VE ACTIVELY TRIED TO AVOID THINKING ABOUT THE BEYONDER! I DIDN'T WANT TO FACE THE FACT THAT HE WAS REAL -- BUT I MUST!
I MUST!
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS LITTLE MAN POSSESSES POWER WHICH SURPASSES THE STARS THEMSELVES!
HIS SCENT IS NO DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MEN! HIS HEART NO STRONGER!
DON'T DO IT PUMA. DON'T FORCE ME TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MY CONSCIENCE -- AND MY RESPONSIBILITY TO THE REST OF THE WORLD!
A SWIFT SWIPE OF MY CLAWS WILL FULFILL MY OBLIGATION TO MY UNCLE!
WHY DO I HESITATE? WHY DO I NOT STRIKE HIM DEAD?!
IT'S.. NO USE! I CAN'T DO IT!
THIS IS NO GOD WHICH STANDS BEFORE ME. MY UNCLE HAS SENT ME ON A FOOL'S ERRAND!
THE ANCIENT PROPHECIES HAVE PROVEN FALSE.
WHEW!
OMIGOSH! WHO ARE YOU?!
I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR YOU ENTER!
AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HEARD ME NOW, UNLESS I DESIRED IT!
18

I AM BUT A POOR PILGRIM WHO HAS JOURNEYED FAR TO SEE THE ONE FROM BEYOND . AND HAS FOUND HIM WANTING!
ONE FROM BEYOND--?! OH, YOU MUST MEAN FRANK!
FRANK?!
SPEAK TO ME OF THE ONE CALLED FRANK!
WELL, HE'S A WONDERFUL MAN! SO CREATIVE! A REAL GENIUS! HE DEVELOPED OUR MESSAGE, AND FOUNDED OUR ORGANIZATION.
I'M JUST THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR HERE! HE'S THE REAL BRAINS OF THE OPERATION!
HE HAS A CONDO ON THE UPPER WESTSIDE. I'LL GIVE YOU HIS ADDRESS IF YOU WISH.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I WENT THROUGH ALL THAT SOUL-SEARCHING FOR NOTHING!
SOMETIME LATER..
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND THIS ADDRESS?
SURE, GO ACROSS FIVE AVENUES THEN, HANG A LEFT, AND HEAD FOR EIGHTY-EIGHTH STREET.
YOU WON'T BE ACCOMPANYING ME?
NO, I'VE HAD ENOUGH! BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY MADE MY DECISIONS!
CALL ME A WIMP, BUT I REALIZE NOW THAT THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER BE A PARTY TO COLD-BLOODED MURDER--NO MATTER WHAT!
MAYBE I'M FOOLISH, BUT I'M GONNA LET THE BEYONDER MAKE THE FIRST MOVE BEFORE I GO UP AGAINST HIM AGAIN!
HANG LOOSE, HAIRY! DON'T BOTHER LOOKING ME UP THE NEXT TIME YOU HIT TOWN!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR RETAINER?
KEEP IT!
WHAT AN AMATEUR! BUT MAYBE HE HAS A POINT!
I KNOW MY TIME WOULD BE BETTER SERVED WORKING ON MY JAPANESE OIL DEAL... THAN CHASING AFTER PHANTOMS FROM BEYOND!
OH, WELL, I'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR...
19

BARELY TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
ALL RIGHT, SO I'M HERE! NOW WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW THE LAYOUT OF THIS BUILDING -- AND I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE THE BEYONDER IF I TRIPPED OVER HIM.
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST TAKE THE DIRECT APPROACH -- CHANGE INTO MY CIVILIAN IDENTITY, AND RING HIS DOORBELL!
OH, THAT ISN'T NECESSARY!
I ALREADY KNOW YOU'RE HERE!
WHAT THE--?!
HI THERE! I AM FROM BEYOND!
SO YOU'RE PUMA? INTERESTING! I'VE MET MUTANTS, AND MANY ARTIFICIALLY ENHANCED BEINGS ON THIS PLANET, BUT NONE OF THEM ARE QUITE LIKE YOU!
YOU'RE VERY UNIQUE!
INCREDIBLE! HE'S RADIATING SO MUCH POWER -- ON SO MANY LEVELS -- THAT MY HYPER-SENSES ARE IN DANGER OF OVERLOADING!
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T LET YOU HURT YOURSELF.
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE HERE TO KILL ME -- BUT THAT'S VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE!
I FEEL BAD THAT YOU WASTED YOUR TIME COMING HERE! ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED WORKING ON YOUR BUSINESS INTERESTS BUT...
"... I CAN FIX THAT!"
I... DON'T BELIEVE IT! THIS IS TOKYO!
HE... SENT ME TO JAPAN!
JAPAN!


THIRTY-TWO MINUTES LATER, AT THE TOKYO BRANCH OFFICE OF FIREHEART ENTERPRISES...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THAT WAS A LOCAL CALL! WHAT'S HE DOING IN JAPAN?!
SOMETHING MUST BE UP FOR HIM TO SPRING A SURPRISE VISIT ON US! ARE THE OIL LEASES IN DANGER? IS IT MY JOB?!
UH-OH! HERE HE COMES NOW-- AND HE DOESN'T LOOK HAPPY!
GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. FIREHEART. I AM MR. CHUMLEY, THE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THIS BRANCH.
IT'S QUITE AN HONOR TO RECEIVE A VISIT FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU? ANYTHING AT ALL?!
YES, GET ME A LINE TO THE UNITED STATES...
"...I'D LIKE TO TALK TO MY SECRETARY AT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IN HARTSDALE!"
I'LL MAKE ALL THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS, THOMAS...
...YOUR PASSPORT WILL HAVE THE APPROPRIATE ENTRY STAMPS WHEN IT ARRIVES BY COURIER TOMORROW.
I'VE NEVER KNOWN THOMAS TO BE SO ABRUPT! SO TENSE--!
SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! SERIOUSLY WRONG!
ONE WEEK LATER, IN THE APARTMENT OF PETER PARKER...
AT LAST! THIS PLACE IS FINALLY BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE!
YEAH... ALL WE NEEDED WAS A FEW COATS OF PAINT-- AND A BULLDOZER!
YOU KNOW, PETEY, YOU NEVER TOLD ME A THING ABOUT THAT MAN WE FOUND IN YOUR APARTMENT LAST WEEK!
FUNNY ABOUT THAT!
HMM! I CAN TAKE A HINT!
21

NOK! NOK!
DO MY EARS DECEIVE ME? IS SOMEONE TAPPING AT MY DOOR?
CAN IT BE ANOTHER BRAVE SOUL WHO'S COME TO VOLUNTEER HIS PAINTING--
-- STILLS?!
SOMETHING TELLS ME IT'S TIME TO MAKE MYSELF SCARCE, AGAIN.
GOOD IDEA. I'LL... CALL YOU LATER.
PLEASE DON'T THINK ME FORWARD, YOUNG LADY, BUT I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF PICKING YOU UP A LITTLE SOUVENIR--A SILK KIMONO FROM JAPAN.
THAT'S... VERY SWEET.
THANK YOU.
JAPAN? WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN JAPAN?!
IT'S A LONG STORY, SPIDER-MAN.
SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I MET THE BEYONDER--AND HE PROVED TO BE FAR MORE FORMIDABLE THAN I EVER IMAGINED!
SO MUCH SO THAT I'M WILLING TO RAISE YOUR RETAINER TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS!
WHAT--?!
MY BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH HIM CONVINCED ME THAT THE BEYONDER IS THE SINGLE GREATEST THREAT IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND!
SPIDER-MAN, WE MUST JOIN FORCES, AND HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!
HAVE YOU GONE PSYCHO?!
10

THERE'S NO WAY TO BEAT THAT GUY!
WE MUST FIND A WAY! THE FATE OF ALL HUMANITY HANGS IN THE BALANCE!
WE'LL PLAN CAREFULLY, AND ATTACK HIM BEFORE HE HAS A CHANCE TO DEFEND HIMSELF!
READ MY LIPS, PUMA-- YOU'RE NUTS!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SNEAK UP ON A GUY WHO'S OMNISCIENT! HE COULD EVEN BE LISTENING TO US RIGHT NOW!
ALL WE'D HAVE TO DO IS CALL HIM-- SHOUT "HEY, BEYONDER"--AND..
YES--?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
OH, NO! WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
TO BE CONTINUED IN PETER PARKER #111!
POWER PLAY!!